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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

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Listener Insights On Programming

A L B A N I A (Gerry Bishop, PA) In regard to your statement about Tirana's programming, who can hear them? On my most recent attempts to tune in for a good laugh, I just couldn't get a decent sig up. Is my receiver in dire need of repair, or have others noticed this also?

(Derek Lowe, AR) I mostly agree with MacThompson in RIB-13. I don't think that the third world has a perfect track record with capitalism, but it is sure a sight better than what Communism has to offer. Gird yourself for the ordeal and listen to Tirana's or any USSR-Peking block programming for a while. Do you really think that those people are benefiting from this system?

(Diane S. Lévesque, Box 2573, Carbondale IL 62901) I agree with MacThompson's views, too. They are correct, but it's only a limited aspect of the thing. Countries would benefit from capitalist dollars and they would have industry, but consider that the industries would be multinational or western-based corporations, and the dollars generated therefrom would be just the overflow of those companies who see to the companies' benefits before that of the communities they affect. Think of what the Third World could be making if it processed its own resources! What's wrong with a poor nation selling its resources, and trading the products thereof for products they cannot produce? In that case, a 'poor' nation could be defined as one that does not have the know-how to refine its own resources, a nation that is being ripped off because of what it does not know, like the Amerindians who sold Manhattan for a handful of beads.

You see? It all depends on how you look at it.

gh: The revisionist view of the sale of Manhattan is that the Indians thought they were ripping off the whites, since they did not consider that land, or any land, 'theirs', to sell. Furthermore, Manhattan's present value is solely the result of development by non-Indians, with the exception, of course, of the Mohawk skyscraper construxion workers.

A U S T R I A (Bruce Boomer, WV) So far ORF has been next to ignored in RIB and now I'll try to change that. The lack of popularity of the Austrian Radio has to be due to the lack of kick provided by 100 kW transmitters, and certainly not because of programming.

Of all the non-powerhouse stations, the Austrian Radio has to rank highest for the professionalism and organization exhibited in its English program "Report from Austria". Each half hour is packed with information and Austrian music--very slickly produced, using talented and personable announcers (no foreign accents here).

A magazine format is used, with news, features, and reports, combined with strictly Austrian folk and classical music. The music might almost seem to be filler material, but it's the best damn filler available on the air. The scheduled features are (GMT) Sunday, "For Tourists"; Monday, "Post Box 700" (mailbag); Tuesday, "Sports Review"; Wednesday, "UN Report"; Thursday, "The Austrian Economy"; Friday, "Pop Corner"; and Saturday, "This Week in Austria". Actually, the features only represent a very small portion of the program.

Austrian Radio still presents a mainly international news and comment, but its unique 'neutral' approach is more interesting to me than, for example, SBC. The news show is short, but often seems to bring up a major viewpoint of an important event that was missed by other stations. However, the program is pre-taped and may be a few hours old by the time you hear it.

The station does its best job on telling about little villages, festivals, folk heros, buildings of historic interest and similar topics that give the best picture of the country. These little cultural items appear almost every day. An especially interesting recent report was reflecting upon the 40th anniversary of Hitler's occupation of Austria.

Sports reporting seems to be the most biased of any of ORF's offerings. The Austrian skiers sure do appear to be fantastic in the ORF sports review, but I guess most of the time this praise is deserved. For winter sports information, Austrian Radio is the place to check.

Reception is the biggest problem. ORF believes in using traditional frequencies--6155 & 9770 kHz at 0130 and 0330 GMT. 6155 is normally useless, unless WYFR is put off the air by a snowstorm. 9770 is poor in the winter but improves to an almost reliable signal by summer.

Showing new interest in building an American audience, ORF has added a 19 metre channel at 1230 GMT, which has great potential. It began in January on 15275, but 15425 is the current frequency, suffering from QRM. But hopefully ORF will soon grab on to a clear channel and start building up seniority in the morning.

gh: Just about impossible to find any really clear channel on this band at this time, but as of Apr. 1, I noted they had moved to 15320, and were coming in over DW co-channel...! Don't forget the 0430 broadcast for western North America, which has been on 6015 but may move up.

C A N A D A (Jack A. Kaeck, IL) We in the US have a serious shortfall of access to CBC programming. A regular listener to RCI will hear again and again from Gerard Rejskind and company that RCI has only so many transmitters and air time, etc. The Canadian government has a very curious attitude. Canadians deplore the ignorance that Americans display of things Canadian, but they are, or at least their government is, chary about spending a little money to help close the information gap via SW. The Northern Service is usually OK during daylight hours, but at night is swamped by QRM. Further, the Northern Service doesn't carry everything. A possible solution would be a relay of a CBC flagship station such as CBL or CBM. Such a relay could be operated like CFRX only with a little more poop (10-20 kW?) If we were really lucky, they would relay the CBC FM network on SW too. Both of these services could be justified as a service to all those folks in the bushes of Northern Ontario who would otherwise lack good radio reception? There's got to be some justification for such a wonderful pipedream.

(Capt. R. A. Serenberg, Jr., FL) DXers got a good earfull of bilingualism on RCI at 1730-1739 GMT March 18 when French and English programs were coming in on the same frequency, 15325 kHz. I don't recommend much of this for listening; hard on the earballs. Otherwise, good listening, especially Sunday DX programs.

gh: It is really not uncommon for such foulups to occur and go on for quite some time. I believe I was listening at exactly the same time, but it was the Northern Service (Quirks & Quarks) mixing with RCI German on all RCI & NS frequencies, not just 15325. I telephoned Sackville (collect) to advise them of the problem, but they would not accept the call, saying they had never heard of me, even when I managed to hint that it was about a 'technical problem' of theirs. But they must have gotten the message, since they fixed it at 1739. This only confirms my previous impression of the Sackville operation--that they do not listen to the RCI and NS programming they are responsible for transmitting. If they did listen, they would 1) have known about the mixing problem immediately and 2) have recognized my name from being on RCI since last August! Ian, I think, recently revealed that in Canada, SW transmitter operators do not have to hold any particular license, but must be 'qualified'. In the US, there would be nothing but FCC First-Class license holders operating a place like Sackville. While this is no guarantee of responsibility and professionalism, it must be preferable to the Canadian system.

(Ian MacFarland, RCI) As of May 8, RCI is adding a fifth broadcast to North America, at 0000 GMT, that is at 8 p.m. EDT right after the As It Happens relay. At this point I'm not certain whether it will continue come standard time next fall. We've decided that the DX Digest included on this broadcast will be Edition 2, so the rest will remain the same, by GMT reckoning.

To answer Louis Goldstein's question about the reason for the inconsistent signal on 5960 kHz at 2300 GMT: While I can't supply a definitive answer, the main reason for this may be the fact that the hop distance on this transmission from Sackville is 4,000 km, which would land the signal somewhere in Tennessee on the first hop. At this time of day the signal is normally reflected off the F_2 layer, which gives the 4,000 km hop distance. However, it's possible that from time to time there is some reflection off the E layer, which would make the hop distance considerably less and give a fairly good signal in the Massachusetts area. Under normal conditions, though, the State of Mass. is in the dead zone of hop 1 as far as the main beam is concerned.

gh: And the only solution would be to use an even lower frequency, but none are allocated....

(Ian MacFarland continues:) It really is interesting what one finds out by running a contest for listeners. As many RIB readers are aware, I'm in the African Service of RCI, and the programs that I produce, with the exception of the DX Digest, are broadcast only on that service.

When we ran our first little contest last year we found out that as far as our listenership was concerned, we had as much a mini world service as an African Service. In addition to 6 countries in Africa, there were entries from West Germany, Spain, Denmark, Britain, Holland, Canada and the USA.

Response to the second contest at the end of last year was even more varied. This time the entries came from 12 African countries, the USA & Canada, Europe, South America, Jamaica, Australia and New Zealand.

So, today one quarter of the world: Tomorrow, all of it. Anyway, it certainly is nice to have all this bonus reception in so many different corners of the world.

gh: I think there is an important lesson to be drawn from this. SW program producers tend to think in terms of their particular target area, and consider that their beam is highly directional, only into that area. Yet in reality there is a tremendous amount of back- and side-radiation, and thus coverage overlap. Although I could have counted them as announced, I was hoping Ian would give the actual number of entries from each country. There may well be more listeners to the RCI African service outside of Africa than inside Africa! Certainly, in most of North America, except the New England/Maritimes area, reception of the RCI African (and European) Service is not inferior, and is sometimes superior to the North American Service itself. And ideal for those who may prefer to listen in the afternoon, especially on weekends, instead of the evenings. Thanks to Ian & Aldo for allowing non-Africans to enter the contests.

(Mike Bolitho, Ont.) Having to listen to two separate RCI transmissions is fine by me, especially if it means that we get more DX news and information. Anyway, what I don't pick up in the first transmission of the news, I can pick up in the second.

However, as a patriotic Canadian, I question why more Canadian material is not used in either the DX Report or the rest of DX Digest. After all, DX Digest is coming from Canada's international voice, and the costs of transmitting it are borne by the Canadian taxpayer, who is already badly overtaxed. It is not that I don't appreciate the feature, but I feel that perhaps it should have more Canadian content. There are very few Canadians who bother to contribute to Glenn's DX report, and I wonder why.

DX Digest, coming as it does from Canada, could also publicize the Canadian hobby a little more. There are now eight Canadian clubs which I know about, and nine if you include our famour national beverage (hi). I'd like the world to think that Canadian hobbyists didn't just join ASWLC, SPEEDX, NASWA, and the like. I wonder if Ian would be interested in providing one or two minutes a month for a spotlight on each of the major Canadian radio clubs, and perhaps, if time permits, a few DX tips from each of the Canadian radio clubs. What do RIB readers think of this idea?

gh: Ian has spotlighted several Canadian clubs in the past, though perhaps not all of them, and no doubt will continue to do so. Although I am under no pressure at all to maintain any percentage of Canadian Content, I feel it only fair to encourage contributions from Canadian sources. But if the DX news report is to be worthwhile, newsworthiness of each item aired must be the prime consideration, whatever the source. And Canadians presumably are a very small minority of the DX Digest's total listenership; and with ten times the population, there's bound to be much more material coming in from the U.S. A continuous Canadian angle on SWLing, could be provided on RCI, if it would re-broadcast Steven Freygood's SWL review from CBC AM radio.

C O S T A R I C A (Ken MacHarg, IN) If you want to hear a typical Latin American station, try to catch Radio Reloj on 6006 kHz around 1100-1200 GMT. I think it comes on earlier, and it usually fades around 1215. It's entirely in Spanish, with a variety of pop music, complete with commercials, time checks, etc. Maybe I enjoy it because Costa Rica is one of my favorite places.

gh: Supposedly operates 24 hours; also on 4832, 12012, 24024, etc.

E C U A D O R (Ken MacHarg, IN) Bob MacThompson was correct in RIB 13 about comparing HCJB with other stations. By far the best religious station that I have heard on MW or SW here in the States is HCJB. They are very creative in much of their programming (i.e. The Call of the Andes, the old Studio 70, and some of the others). They do not fill all of their time with the syndicated programs which fill TWR and others. (It should be mentioned that syndicated programs pay, while their own productions do not). Their syndicated programs are of the higher quality (listen to WINB to see the difference), and certainly you don't get hit for money the way many domestic broadcasters do. Now all of this is not to say that I like, or agree with everything I hear on HCJB, but then I don't agree with everything I hear on VOA, BBC, RN, or others for that matter.

As an ordained minister, active in religious broadcasting groups in the Louisville area, I will be the first to say that a great deal of religious programming is terrible. Much of it does not use the medium of radio well (you can't broadcast a church service with the same impact), much of it is done with little or no talent, much of it is bad theology, much of it is exploitative of the 'little old lady listeners', etc., who send money to con artists. Our church was recently told by our local station that we needed to pay in advance for any purchased time (along with politicians) because church groups were well-known for not paying for broadcast time.

On the other hand, there are a number of excellent religious programs which seldom if ever get much attention, and little air time. For example: Silhouette from the Lutheran Church; Our Heritage, Our Hopes, from my own United Church of Christ, which deals with issues such as death and dying, biomedical ethics, ecological issues, art and society, etc., with guests such as Barbara Ward and Andrew Young. Those programs, which approach issues of our times from the religious standpoint, are largely ignored and certainly can't compete with America's religious hucksters who have the pocket book.

Most SW missionary broadcasters are not in it for the dollar, but out of conviction. The quality of their work compares favorably to that of the commercial religious stations, like one here in Louisville which is the gathering place for all of our right-wing extremists.

(Derek Lowe, AR) I see nothing wrong with Tips for Real Living on DXPL. That is their raison d'être for broadcasting. We ought to be impressed that any religious station has any DX programming at all. Also, re gh's observation, HCJB differs from stations of a different propaganda tack such as Moscow in that they are self-supporting. The Communist stations have tremendous budgets for their work, but HCJB is a private concern. They cannot afford to ignore the large English-speaking audience for DXPL that could be hearing a spot plug for religion. And logically, they don't.

gh: All this is irrelevant, I feel. Exactly like the communist stations, HCJB has an ideology to spread, something which is completely non-factual, and they mix it up with a DX program, supposedly full of exact data like times and frequencies. The fact remains that the communist stations keep their considerable output of ideology apart from their DX programs. Of course, DX Party Line has a poor track record in DX information accuracy, as a look through past "Don't You Believe" listings readily confirms--apparently because the hosts don't keep up with what's happening in the DX world; and I've never had any evidence that Clayton Howard ever listens to any other DX program. So perhaps in a way it is not inappropriate that faulty DX information should be mixed in with theology which is mere theory but is presented as if it were absolute fact. Unfortunately, the predominantly beginner-SWL audience to DXPL, unaware that some of the DX information is erroneous, may make a subconscious connexion between the supposed DX fact and the accompanying theological 'fact'. As HCJB has admitted in its own publications, it is using DX for its own ends, which I would consider insidious. I resent DXing being used in this manner, and I am sorry that several RIB contributors have stood up for this practice. I haven't the slightest hope that HCJB would change its tactic as a result of this discussion, but this will not deter me from exposing them, and continuing to advocate freedom from religion in DX programs.

GERMANY WEST (David L. Walcutt, TX, from a Mar. 24 letter to DW's Dieter Wernig) Tonight's program was one of the best; it was really excellent and I only regret it was not longer. I believe there were just three features: Larry Wayne on youthful marriages & divorces, Nick Bailey on unsmiling bureaucrats, and Jerry Gorman with a representative of the Mercedes Benz museum. The one about the bureaucratic approach towards greater friendliness towards the public was particularly enjoyable and even memorable.

It might not be a bad idea for all the Friday shows to resemble the Saturday & Sunday ones as far as the choice of topical material is concerned, assuming that the accent (no pun intended) will remain on the latest diplomatic, economic and political news on the other days.

I like interviews and would like to hear more. Before the one tonight, there was an interview with some really moronic female painter from the US, visiting Berlin to paint whales or something. That was supposed to have been part of an "Americans in Germany" series. By the way, what is the reference of Larry Wayne's "Kathy the cat what am" and "Jessie the cat what am"? Are those the names of his cats or what? I am not complaining, just curious.

As an aside, in March RIB, page 10, it should have shown Dave Wiland heard twice, not once.

(Gerry Bishop, PA) When and where is Ms. Lévesque hearing Bayerischer Rundfunk? I keep checking 6085, but all I get is that other FRG station. I haven't heard BR for about a year, and only poorly then, so I'd really like to get an idea of their programming style. I know what SWF and SDR are like, and I tune into these two when I am able. There's a feeling I get from West German home services that I just don't find in DW on any of their services. I guess that's why I'm just a little more DXer than SWL.

HUNGARY (gh) Do all RIB readers who are interested in R. Budapest's programming get "Budapest International" in time? Or is it useful for me to give here these April highlights: Report, Thus 2100, Fris 0200, 0300, 1030 & 1430, Apr. 13-14 on Photographic Directions; April 20-21, The Piroska (Hungary-Austria railway buff) Line; Apr. 27-28, In the Name of Life Itself (Hungarian opinion on the neutron bomb). Rotating Fri 2100, Sun 0200, 0300, 1030, 2100, Mon 0300, 1030, 1430 are these features: Apr. 8-10, Eyeing Gains; Apr. 15-17, Songs of a Nation; Apr. 22-24, The Poetry Market. View, Tues 2100, Weds 0200, 0300, 1030, 1430: Apr. 11-12, Vantage View, a talk with a choreographer; Apr. 18-19, Econview, whether CMEA membership has helped Hungarian industrial development; Apr. 25-26, Scanner View on solar energy and genetic engineering. Apr. 30 is the day for seasonal frequency changes.

ISRAEL see p. 13

KOREA SOUTH (Gerry Bishop, PA) For Mark Basick, the address for R. Korea is the same as listed in the WRTH, or you might try the variation which appears on their envelope, which is: 1-Yoido-Dong, Youngdungpo-Gu, Seoul. Merely some minor spelling changes and no '799'. I don't understand why those Korean stations are so lax about answering mail. It took three letters before I got a QSL, and the same amount still hasn't produced anything out of Pyongyang. And I wish R. Korea would stop using the designation 'temporary' without explaining just what they mean.

NETHERLANDS (Richard Stoller, NY) Thank you, Edwin Southwell, in RIB-13. For a minute, I thought I was an idiot or something, since after four or so lessons, I couldn't make heads or tails out of the Dutch by Radio series. I agree with everything he said. It is the most boring course I've ever taken. Another thing amiss with the series is the haphazard way that new vocabulary is introduced. It is put in so matter-of-factly that it is impossible for it to actually sink in. Finally, they have their priorities mixed up. While they skim over some of the most important grammatical rules, they throw in the silliest vocabulary words in the early units, like "caulifolwer". Yeah, caulifolwer.

gh: Never heard of it; what does it mean in English?

NIGER (Richard Stoller, NY) Has some weird music, with those Sahel flute melodies. If you like this sort of thing, this would be just the sort of thing you'd like. (Don't laugh...that saying was coined by Abe Lincoln.) Try 0545 GMT or so on 5020. Also 3260, if you can hear it.

PAKISTAN (Mike Hardester, Okinawa, Mar. 24) This past week or so, it was interesting to note many/several international broadcasters mentioning the matter of Mr. Bhuto and his 'death sentence'. I was checking out Pakistan's 0230-0245 21590 kHz English transmission and not even the slightest mention of what is going on there. Also, the transmission is rather poor as far as the English enunciation goes. Each item is repeated twice and occasionally worse the second time through. Still, it's interesting to listen to and at least they're trying.

(Gerry Bishop, PA) Got one that's just unreal. Radio Pakistan, GOS, on 21590 with dictation news by man at 0230 GMT, SIO 353. I couldn't believe it at first; heard Mar. 29. Very clear transmission. Off right at 0245.

gh: Them sunspots sure can do wonderful things. Praise the Sun God's acne!

SOUTH AFRICA (Mike Bolitho, Ont.) No, I didn't listen to Radio RSA's NYE phone-in programme; I was too busy standing around a dull party, sipping Canada Dry gingerale. The only way I could afford to place a call all the way to South Africa is to substitute domestic champagne for imported. Hence, these phone-in programmes should be limited to special occasions when listeners are certain to be elsewhere, cutting the chances of tying up phone lines, and also surprises, so the people lucky enough to hear it can call in, and then discuss it in RIB for months afterwards. On the more practical side of things, who would want to, or who could afford it on a regular basis?

Tuning across 60 metres one morning I came across a rendition of the "Knightsbridge March" by Eric Coates. This is the well-known theme of DX Party Line, and for a moment I thought I was listening to HCJB. No, it was only Springbok Radio on 4810 at 0400!

SRI LANKA (Mike Bolitho, Ont.) If you miss the BBC news at 0200 on Tuesdays, don't worry. Catch it 15 minutes later in a relay from SLBC at 0215 on 15425. May apply to other days of the week.

SURINAM (Diane S. Lévesque, IL) It sure as heck is competing with Yaoundé, but not like I figured! Now Surinam is regularly on 4850, the best Yaoundé frequency here. And on late, so I couldn't hear Yaoundé with any clarity even if I wanted to. I wish they'd move!!!! The boogie sessions--you know, in omitting the part about my friends coming over for a 'boogie session', you make me sound as if I'm doing something--ahem--I really don't do. In context, "boogie sessions" means party. In the shorter version you presented in RIB 13, it really sounds like something else--please be a little more careful in editing.

gh: Sorry, but I wasn't really sure what you meant by 'boogie session' in the first place, and I still can't imagine what connotation you are wary of.

SWEDEN (Richard Stoller, NY) Congratulations, Radio Sweden. You've finally come up with a clear frequency to North America during the evenings. Try 9590 at 0030 and be amazed!!

TRISTAN DA CUNHA (Gerry Bishop, PA) You're damn right I'd give up you-know-what for Tristan. They're only on for three hours a day, four days a week. Then, of course, anything worth having is worth waiting for, n'est-ce pas? (Somehow, seeing this in print would not look quite appropriate, but if you're a little short, then don't hesitate. Something just don't look right here.....)

TURKEY (Gerry Bishop, PA) Tuned onto TRT for the first time in a year recently, and was quite pleased at what I heard. I caught a newscast of mainly Turkish items, and then a 20-minute program of Turkish poetry, with some excellent Mid-East music in the background. For those of you who haven't tried Turkey for a while, give'em a shot one one of the days when they aren't running a DX program. Ya might like what ya 'ear.

gh: Last I 'eard, they were on 9515 and 7170 at 2130-2255 GMT; 1200-1300 on 9665.

AFRTS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

A R.I.B. EXCLUSIVE

(Ken MacHarg, IN) I have written several times for an AFRTS program schedule, but I seem to be getting nowhere. In the meantime, I have noticed that AFRTS has evidently settled their squabble with VOA in that they are still on the air. Also, they have made some program changes.

gh: They certainly have, making their last published schedule of July 1976 useless. AFRTS is much more listenable now, with musical interludes between programs, reducing an incredbile clutter of dumb PSA spots. Their frequency schedule does not match the current VOA schedule. 17765 comes on much earlier than listed 2100. As far as Louis Goldstein and I can tell, AFRTS-W is no longer on the air 24h. We can't find any active frequency between 1400 and 1800 GMT--15430, 15330, 9700 and 6095 all sign off at 1400. Bob Padula reports, however, that the Philippine relay has resumed, but to East Asia & Pacific, on 21670 at 0100-1900, and 11835 at 1900-0100. He also says Bethany is on new 9685 at 0500-1200, but I only hear Algeria at 0500, AFRTS at 1000.

(Louis Goldstein, MA) I have attempted to make up my own off-the-air sked of AFRTS programs. It is by no means complete, but is an attempt to fill in gaps encountered by refusal of AFRTS to honor requests for information. Will update info as received. Your help solicited. A very tough job and I hope it will be helpful to RIB readers. UPI, NBC and CBS news are now delayed from on-hour broadcasts. Features seem to be repeated only once five hours after original airing. * means no commercials included.

gh: All this is Louis' work, except I have filled in the 0600-0900z block, as monitored Mar 28 & Apr. 2. Since all AFRTS programming will presumably shift to an hour earlier of real time as of U.S. DST advent Apr. 30, I have decided to present this schedule in Central Standard/Daylight Shifting Time for convenience. Add 6 hours for GMT until Apr. 30, then 5 hours.

SATURDAY

*0500 AP NEWS
*0506 UPI NEWS
0511 NBC NEWS
0517 CBS NEWS
0524 NBC MORNING LINE (sports)
0530 MBS NEWS
0535 NET NEWSCALL
*0600 AP NEWS
*0606 UPI NEWS
0611 NBC NEWS
0617 CBS NEWS
0623 CBS SPORTS WORLD ROUNDUP
0630 ABC NEWS
*0700 AP NEWS
*0706 UPI NEWS
0711 NBC NEWS
0717 MBS NEWS
0723 CBS FIRST LINE REPORT
0730 ABC NEWS AROUND WORLD
*0745 CBS WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP
0800-1200 (inaudible)
*1200 AP NEWS
*1206 UPI NEWS
1211 NBC NEWS
1217 CBS NEWS
1223 CBS WORLD SPORTS
1227 SPORTSLINE
1230 ABC NEWS
1235 PGM NOTES & NET NEWSCALL
1300 (usually play-by-play sports prevents determination of stand-by program schedule)
1717 CBS NEWS
1723 ABC WORLD OF SPORTS
1727 SPORTSLINE
1730 ABC NEWS
1735 CBS WASHINGTON WEEK
1745 CBS LETTERS TO CBS
1750 NBC WEEKEND SPORTS
1756 UPI SPORTS
*1800 AP NEWS
*1806 UPI NEWS
1811 CBS DAN RATHER
1816 CBS IN SPOTLITE
1821 CBS WEEKEND WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS
1830 ABC NEWS
1835 NET NEWSCALL
*1900 AP NEWS
*1906 UPI NEWS
1911 NBC NEWS
1917 CBS DATELINE AMERICA
1921 VA REPORT
1936 ABC WORLD OF SPORTS
*1930 NPR PAULINE FREDERICK
*2000 AP NEWS
2006 CBS LAW AND YOU
2010 CBS THINKING IT OVER
2015 AFR SPORTS PAGE
2030 ABC NEWS
2035 ABC FM LISTEN CLOSELY
*2100 AP NEWS
*2106 UPI NEWS
2111 NBC NEWS
2117 ABC NEWS
2127 SPORTSLINE
*2130 UNR PERSPECTIVE
2145 MBS WEEK AT UN
*2200 AP NEWS
*2206 UPI NEWS
2211 NBC NEWS
2217 CBS NEWS
2223 SPORTSLINE
2230 UPI ROUNDTABLE
*2300 AP NEWS
*2306 UPI NEWS

(SATURDAY)
2311 NBC NEWS
2317 CBS NEWS
2324 MBS NEWS
2330 ABC NEWS
2335 AP SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

SUNDAY
*0000 AP NEWS
*0006 UPI NEWS
0011 NBC NEWS
0017 CBS NEWS
0024 AFR SPORTS PAGE
*0030 NPR PAULINE FREDERICK
*0100 AP NEWS
*0106 UPI NEWS
CBS WASHINGTON WEEK
CBS LETTERS TO CBS
CBS SPORTS SPECIAL
0130 ABC FM LISTEN CLOSELY
AFR TEST TONES
*0200 AP NEWS
*0206 UPI NEWS
0211 VA REPORT
0215 AFR SPORTS PAGE
*0230 UNR PERSPECTIVE
0245 MBS WEEK AT UN
*0300 AP NEWS
*0306 UPI NEWS
0311 CBS SPORTS SPECIAL
0330 UPI ROUNDTABLE
*0400 AP NEWS
*0406 UPI NEWS
0411 NBC NEWS
0417 CBS NEWS
0424 MBS NEWS
0435 AP SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT
*0500 AP NEWS
*0506 UPI NEWS
0511 NBC NEWS
0517 CBS NEWS
0524 MBS NEWS
0530 MBS NEWS
0535 NET NEWSCALL
*0600 AP NEWS
*0606 UPI NEWS
0611 NBC NEWS
0617 CBS NEWS
0624 MBS NEWS
0630 MBS NEWS
0635 ABC VOICES IN HEADLINES
*0700 AP NEWS
*0706 UPI NEWS
0711 NBC NEWS
0717 CBS NEWS
0724 MBS NEWS
0730 ABC NEWS
0735 MBS PUB POLICY FORUMS
0800-1200 inaudible, but these are assumed:
0835 ABC SPEAKING EVERYTHING
0935 MBS REPORTERS ROUNDUP
1030 NBC SPECIAL SERIES:
(CONSUMERS CHALLENGE)
(WOMEN's SHOW)
(SECOND SUNDAY)
*1200 AP NEWS
*1206 UPI NEWS
1211 NBC NEWS
1217 CBS NEWS
1223 ABC WORLD OF SPORTS
1227 SPORTSLINE
1230 ABC NEWS
1235 MBS PUB POLICY FORUMS
*1300 AP NEWS
*1306 UPI NEWS
1311 NBC NEWS
1317 CBS NEWS
1323 ABC WORLD OF SPORTS
1327 SPORTSLINE
1330 ABC NEWS
1335 ABC SPEAKING EVERYTHING
*1400 AP NEWS
*1406 UPI NEWS
1411 NBC NEWS
1417 CBS NEWS
1423 ABC WORLD OF SPORTS
1427 SPORTSLINE
1430 ABC NEWS
1435 MBS REPORTERS ROUNDUP
1500-1530 ?
1530 NBC SPECIAL SERIES
*1600 NPR ALL THINGS CONSIDERED
*1700 AP NEWS
*1706 UPI NEWS
1711 NBC NEWS
1717 CBS NEWS
1723 ABC WORLD OF SPORTS
1727 SPORTSLINE
1730 ABC NEWS
1735 CBS WORLD THIS WEEK
1745 CBS WASHINGTON WATCH
1750 NBC WEEKEND SPORTS
1756 UPI NEWS
*1800 AP NEWS
*1806 UPI NEWS
1811 CBS CHAS COLLINGWOOD
1815 CBS MORLEY SAFER JOURNAL
1821 CBS WEEKEND SPORTS WORLD
1830 ABC NEWS
1835 NET NEWSCALL
*1900 AP NEWS
*1906 UPI NEWS
1911 NBC NEWS
1917 AFR ARMED FORCES DIGEST
1923 CBS DATELINE AMERICA
1927 SPORTSLINE
1930 ABC NEWS
1935 ABC PERSPECTIVE I
*2000 AP NEWS
2006 CBS NEWS PROFILE
2011 CBS WHAT'S NEW IN LEARNING?
2015 AFR SPORTS PAGE
2030 ABC NEWS
2035 ABC PERSPECTIVE II
*2100 AP NEWS
*2106 UPI NEWS
2111 NBC NEWS
2117 ABC NEWS
2127 UPI NEWS
2130 ABC NEWS
2135 CBS FACE THE NATION
2200-2400 incompletely monitored, except:
2235 NBC MEET THE PRESS
2335 ABC ISSUES & ANSWERS

MONDAY
0000-0415 not monitored
0415 CBS NEWS PROFILE
0419 CBS WHAT's NEW IN LEARNING?
0424 ABC FBI WASHINGTON
0430 MBS NEWS
0435 ABC ISSUES & ANSWERS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
*0500 AP NEWS
*0506 UPI NEWS
0511 NBC NEWS
0517 CBS NEWS
0524 NBC MORNING SPORTS LINE
0530 ABC NEWS
0535 NET NEWSCALL
*0600 AP NEWS
*0606 UPI NEWS
0611 NBC NEWS
0617 CBS NEWS
0630 ABC NEWS
0635 NET NEWSCALL
0700 ABC or AP NEWS
*0706 UPI NEWS
0711 MBS BLACK NETWORK NEWS
0717 CBS FIRST LINE REPORT
0723 SPORTSLINE
0727 UPI SPORTS

(MONDAY - FRIDAY)
0730 ABC NEWS AROUND WORLD
*0745 CBS WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP
0800-1200 inaudible
*1200 AP NEWS
*1206 UPI NEWS
1211 NBC NEWS
1217 CBS NEWS
1224 MBS NEWS
1230 ABC NEWS
1235 PROGRAM NOTES & NET NEWSCALL (including NBC MIND OVER MATTER)
*1300 AP NEWS
*1306 UPI NEWS
1311 NBC NEWS
1317 MBS BLACK NETWORK NEWS
1323 ON SPORTS
1327 MY SIDE (sports)
1330 ABC NEWS
1335 CBS SPECTRUM I
1339 CBS SPECTRUM II
1343 CBS NEWSBREAK
1350 CBS WHAT's HAPPENING?
1350 CBS MEET THE COOK
*1400 AP NEWS
*1406 UPI NEWS
1411 NBC NEWS
1417 CBS NEWS
1424 MBS SPORTS
1430 ABC NEWS
1435 MBS ASK JACK ANDERSON
1439 MBS ST. JOHN's JOURNAL
1441 MBS PRIVATE LINE
1445 NBC MAN ABOUT ANYTHING
1448 NBC CONSUMERS VIEW
1450 MBS ELMER's GROCERY LIST
1453 MBS ASTROLOGY TODAY
1457 MBS ASSIGNMENT HOLLYWOOD
*1500 AP NEWS
*1506 UPI NEWS
1511 NBC NEWS
1517 MBS ONE MAN's OPINION
1520 MBS CAPITAL ASSIGNMENT
1524 MBS BLACK NETWORK SPORTS
1530 ABC NEWS
*1535 ABC PAUL HARVEY
1545 MBS COMMENTARY IN BLACK
1553 NBC UPDATE
1555 MBS WALL STREET REPORT
*1600 NPR ALL THINGS CONSIDERED
*1700 AP NEWS
*1706 UPI NEWS
1711 CBS NEWSBREAK PM
1716 MBS INSIDE SPORTS
1719 CBS SPORTSTIME
1723 SPORTSLINE
1727 UPI SPORTS
1730
1735
*1800 AP NEWS
*1806 UPI NEWS
1815 ABC ON SPORTS
1821 ABC SPEAKING OF SPORTS
1825 CBS SPORTSTIME
1830 ABC NEWS
1835 NET NEWSCALL + SSB
*1900 AP NEWS
*1906 UPI NEWS
1911 MBS BLACK NETWORK NEWS
1917 AFR ARMED FORCES DIGEST
1923 SPORTSLINE
1927 UPI SPORTS
1930 ABC NEWS
1935 MBS WORLD TONIGHT (delay from 1707; includes in-depth commentary from ST. JOHN)
1950 ABC REST OF THE STORY
1955 CBS MIKE WALLACE @ LARGE
*2000 AP RADIO NEWS
*2006 UPI NEWS
2011 ABC COMMENTARY
2015 AFR SPORTS PAGE
2030 ABC NEWS
2035 CBS WALTER CRONKITE
2042 ABC SMITH-BELL REPORT
2045 ABC COMMENTARY
2051 ABC REASONER REPORT
2057 NBC CHANCELLOR-BRINKLEY
*2100 AP NEWS
*2106 UPI NEWS
2111 NBC NEWS
2118 NBC MONEY LINE
2120 MBS CONSUMER BUYER GUIDE
2124 SPORTSLINE
2126 UPI SPORTS
2130 ABC WORLD WRAPUP (½ hr delay; last 9:15 *)
2145 MBS WALL STREET REPORT
2150 CBS NEWSBREAK PM
2155 CBS TODAY IN BUSINESS
*2200 AP NEWS
*2206 UPI NEWS
2211 NBC NEWS
2217 CBS NEWS
2223 SPORTSLINE
2225 CBS SPORTSTIME
2230 ABC NEWS
2236 NBC OTHER REFLECTIONS
2239 mon MBS AM PERSPECTIVE
tue MBS NW REVIEWINGSTAND
wed MBS LAB NEWS CONFERENCE
thu MBS DECISIONS OF 70's
fri MBS WHAT's THE ISSUE?
*2300 AP NEWS
*2306 UPI NEWS
2311 NBC NEWS
2317 CBS NEWS
2324 ABC SPORTS WORLD
2330 Mon ABC MEET THE AUTHOR
Tue CBS SCIENCE EDITOR
(2335)Wed CBS CAP CLOAKROOM
Thu NAVY RADIO
Fri CHURCH WORLD NEWS
2345 Mon AIR FORCE WEEKLY
Tue ARMY NEWS NOTES
Thu MARINE DIGEST
Fri WORLD RELIGIOUS NEWS

TUESDAY - SATURDAY
*0000 AP NEWS
*0006 UPI NEWS
0011 NBC NEWS
0017 CBS NEWS
0300-0400 same as 2200-2300.
0400-0500 same as 2300-2400.
0024 AFR SPORTS PAGE
0027 MBS SPORTS
0030 ABC NEWS
0035 PROGRAM INFO & NET NEWSCALL (including ABC SPORTS)
*0100 AP NEWS
*0106 UPI NEWS
0111 NBC NEWS
0117 CBS NEWS
0124 AFR ARMED FORCES DIGEST
0130 ABC NEWS
0136 NBC TODAY's BIG STORY
ABC REST OF THE STORY
CBS MIKE WALLACE @ LARGE
NBC MONEYLINE
MBS CONSUMERS BUYERS GUIDE
AFR TEST TONES
*0200 AP NEWS
*0206 UPI NEWS
0211 ABC COMMENTARY
0215 AFR SPORTS PAGE
0230 ABC NEWS
0235 CBS WALTER CRONKITE
ABC SMITH-BELL REPORT
ABC COMMENTARY
ABC REASONER REPORT
NBC CHANCELLOR-BRINKLEY

(Richard Stoller, NY) I heard something rather unique on AFRTS Jan. 29--a commercial. When time came for the first commercial break in the 1900 GMT NBC news, they started to run "I chew Big Red gum. Rounding up these horses is a big job, so...", and then it was cut off by what they were supposed to put in, a stupid PSA about "America the Beautiful" or something like that.

USA (Jack A. Kaeck, IL) I am always amused by the air of embarrassment surrounding comment or lack of comment in RIB and elsewhere about the VOA. Some of the best programming on the air will be found on VOA. It is hard to imagine better jazz than the VOA Jazz Hour, heard daily except Sunday GMT at various times and frequencies. There are several news analysis shows on VOA that have no counterpart elsewhere in ISWBC that I know of. One such is usually chaired by Harry Ellis of the Christian Science Monitor, and has two other established journalists as panalists. These programs are similar to PBS-NPR's Washington Week in Reveiw. These shows should be free of taint, since their content is not directly controlled by VOA, and the journalists have their reputations to guard. These examples of excellence are not the whole story however.

A recent feature on All Things Considered was particularly illuminating on the VOA. VOA overseas "correspondents" travel on diplomatic passports and have access to classified material. Their objectivity is clearly in doubt. The Washington press corps will not permit the VOA White House correspondents to ask questions during presidential press conferences because of the legitimate question of the objectivity of these correspondents. The NPR analyst suggest a partial solution would be to get VOA correspondents off diplomatic passports and lift their access to classified material.

I have a few suggestions of my own. I think we should have a serious reorganization of national policy in this area. I think Congress should consider moving VOA into NPR and out of the Department of State. As a component of such a policy, AFRTS should be guaranteed as a legitimate part of the US overseas broadcasting effort in parallel with VOA, relaying the commercial domestic network material. Further, several VOA transmitters should be set aside to broadcast NPR both domesticly and overseas. If VOA were a part of NPR as RCI is a part of CBC, chances of high objectivity with faithful reflection of American society would be considerably enhanced, and I believe people both here and abroad could be rightly proud to say they are regular listeners to the VOA.

(Ken MacHarg, IN) James Reston of the New York Times, in his syndicated column carried in a number of papers including the Louisville Courier-Journal has come out in strong support of the VOA. Writing from Damascus, he strongly criticised R. Moscow for its propagandistic approach, as opposed to VOA, who he said "is very different. It is very cool. It says, 'here is the news' and even Walter Cronkite wouldn't be ashamed to read it." He went on to point out the objectivity of VOA news, and its service in penetrating areas where local news is censored. Reston also promoted the VOA as a service to the Americans overseas who use it for news from home. He concludes: "It is a costly service, which is what worries the Congress. It is an honest service, reporting our national failures as well as our virtues--which also troubles those who want it to produce nothing but propaganda. But heard over here, a long way from home, it seems worth the money and even makes you proud."

gh: The complete article will subsequently be available as an RIB clipping copy. On April Fool's Day, VOA was divorced from the State Department=USIA, and became a part of the newly formed International Communications Agency (ICA). Hausa language to be added this fall.

(Brad Lovett, OH) Concerning WHAS's 'appeal'. The clear-channel broadcasters have a powerful lobby to ensure that they keep their clear channel designation. I wish that the smaller stations would get a lobby together to challenge the powerhouses. These stations are vastly overprotected. There is no reason that numerous daytimers and at least one 5000-watt fulltimer on the west coast can't operate on 700 kHz. There are so few absolute clear channels or near-clear channels that have any programming benefiting a national audience, that I don't know how they can say they're serving California from Boston. And a 1000-watt daytimer in Outhouse, VA, is not going to interfere with WLW!

gh: Yes, crummy stations like WLW have a lot of gall to try to hog the airwaves, when they have nothing to offer anyone outside Cincinnati, if even that! But instead of ending the clears' monopoly, I'd like to see some of these channels turned over to genuinely nationally-oriented (preferably non-commercial) licensees. Think what a boon it would be to public radio, for instance, to have a centrally-located NPR affiliate on 700 kHz!

(Robert L. Foxworth, NY) The best time to hear unusual programs on MW, such as the WHO item mentioned by Diane Lévesque, seems to be Sunday evening/Monday morning. This is when the majority of broadcasters schedule their public affairs items. WNBC-660 NY used to, I believe, have Spanish Mondays around 0600 GMT. I now think this has been taken off the air with their new format.

For Ken MacHarg: A recent item in the MW-only club IRCA says that WCCO as well as WHAS is seeking distant listener response. I speculated then that I feel this may be an action on the part of these broadcasters to forestall a proposal made by a group known as the Association for Broadcast Engineering Standards, Inc., which was filed with the FCC in answer to their Docket 20642 ("Clear Channel Broadcasting") and which would allocate a new class of low-power fulltime stations on what are now clear channels in areas removed from the primary service area of the existing station. For example, this would create 7 or 8 new 1000-watt fulltime stations in the West on 650 kc and the same in the East on 1160, and so forth. The currently existing stations are in Nashville on 650 and Salt Lake City on 1160, to illustrate the two examples the ABES presented to the Commission.

This proposal would, if enacted, ruin distant nighttime skywave service from the existing 50 kW clear channel stations and this would explain the concern felt by those stations that depend on distant listeners. On the other hand, stations such as WCBS 880, which is all-news, have no concern for listeners out of the Tri-State area (NY, NJ, CT) and make no attempt to reach them, even though a continual stream of distant listeners write in, commenting on items or personalities connected with the news, as well as the QSL-card chasers.

To Richard Stoller, yes, WLIB does have good Caribbean coverage, but distant listeners should note that they sign off at Fort Wayne IN sunset, and WOWO and Canadian CHTN PEI will make distant reception difficult. Finally, Long John's last name is Nebel, not Neville--he is currently on WMCA-570 NY doing allnight call-in (this was recently on Mutual, following the Jepko fiasco, but they've dropped him, too), and WRUL was not owned by CBS. CBS did own a SW station in the postwar years, I believe in Brentwood LI.

gh: Yes, it was WDSI, with another site in Wayne NJ, as well as KCBR Delano CA. Per the WRTVH 1957, CBS operated all three sites as VOA transmitters.

U K O G B A N I (Louis Goldstein, MA) Tho not listed in skeletal schedule from WRC, "My Music" was heard 1215 GMT Friday in slot called QUIZ. Any info on other airings?

(Jack Widner, IN) I searched in vain over Roger Peterson's summary of BBC broadcasts in April for the best news to come along for a long long time, but alas and alack there was nary a mention. Just A Minute returns to the World Service!!! The best and funniest of BBC panel games is on Sun 1715, Thu 0230, Fri 1215, starting Apr. 9.

gh: There's your answer, Louis. JAM is taking over the My Music slots.

(Creede Lambard, Sa'udi Arabia) Peterson is mistaken. Peter Sellers was one of the three inspired lunatics behind the Goon Show. He was half the show while Milligan recovered breakdown.

(gh) See March RIB for April BBC highlights compiled by Roger Peterson. Our publication deadline is too early for his May summary to have arrived, so I will make a few recommendations for the first half of May:

The House of Windsor devotes one program to each of its four monarchs, Mons 0100 & 0945 and Tues 1330, beginning May 1-2 with George V, May 8-9 Edward VIII.

Degrees of Revolt, on the worldwide protest movements exactly ten years ago, Weds 1430, Thurs 0330, Fris 2030.

Brain of Britain 1978 succeeds Take It Or Leave It in May, Suns 0330, Tues 0830, Weds 1215, Thurs 1830.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, a science-ficition comedy series, narrated by Peter Jones from Just A Minute, Mons 1130, Tues 1615, Fris 2330.

The Glums, created by Frank Muir & Denis Norden of My Word and My Music, is being rebroadcast from the 1957-58 era when the series was part of Take It From Here. Suns 1900, Tues 1115 Fris 0215.

Talking About Music returns with Antony Hopkins, Mons 0330, Tues 1215, Weds 1615; May 1-3, on Nielsen's Symphony No. 5; May 8-10 on Beethoven's Violin Sonata in G.

Music for the Dance begins Apr. 30, Suns 2330, Tues 1430, Weds 0830.

Alistair Cooke's Music 20s looks at this 'bustling decade' of American music, in 5 episodes starting May 27, Sats 0230, Mons 1030, Weds 2030, Thurs 1615.

Music from Scotland is back with Jimmie MacGregor, Mons 0430, Weds 1945, Thurs 0815.

A few frequency changes as from May 7, for North America--17830 replaces 15420 from Antigua at 2000-2115. 15215 is used instead of 15070 at 1100-1330. Sackville relay, as last year during DST, open at 2200 GMT on 6175; but while 9510 is to open at 2115, it is no longer shown as a Sackville relay; as before, Greenville takes over at 0030.

U S S R (Derek Lowe, AR) I rarely listen to any foreign service Soviet stations, and haven't written in about a year and a half. Why? I find they have little to offer, except special information and an occasional glimpse into the Soviet system. I still hold with the theory that more can be told about a country from what it tells its own people, ergo I listen to the smaller regional stations on 60m and elsewhere. You can get some terrific folk music this way--and an indication of what the Soviet listener gets when he flips on his radio in the morning.

I S R A E L (Louis Goldstein, MA) On IBA's DX Corner, Sun Mar. 19, Ben Dalfen admitted that IBA has been experiencing transmission difficulties. A week previous he had read some listener's letter complaining that the transmissions were heavy on bass and not as clear as they should be. At that time, Mr. Dalfen suggested listeners might turn up treble on home receivers. Tell me now, how many SW broadcasters would publically admit they were at fault for less than perfect transmissions? IBA ought to be commended for their candor. Wish them a speedy recovery from their difficulty. Also, I join other readers in wishing that IBA would run a SW feed of their domestic English program later in the day. 1200 GMT feed does not come in too well in Eastern US.

gh: By the end of March, IBA seemed to have licked its audio problem, at least on most of its frequencies. How come we Americans decry commercialism on our own radio, but are eager to get it from 'exotic' places like Israel?? I thought about heading this Z I O N L A N D, but I'll just admit that I forget to put it under "I" where it belongs. Ah, candor!

F R E Q U E N C Y S C H E D U L E I N F O R M A T I O N. Some people sampling this issue of RIB may find it lacking in exact data on when and where to tune in the broadcasts reviewed. True, RIB is in a sense incomplete. But it IS a Review, not a schedule booklet. Schedules are available from many other sources, for instance: Direct, free upon request from the stations themselves; the World Radio-TV Handbook; Popular Electronics in the June, October, December and April issues. English Schedules are continually updated monthly in Listeners Notebook (see back page), and on DX broadcasts such as RCI DX Digest on Sundays, every week.

SPY STATIONS (Diane Lévesque, IL) While cooking lunch, I ran into a numbers station Steven Kontos might be interested in, as it was nothing like the 'usual' he described. It signed on with about 5 minutes worth of time pips (I thought it was Moscow at first), then a YL repeated in English the same 3 (not 5) digits for roughly 20 minutes, "3 6 2", each repetition, though inflected, a carbon copy of the previous. 7 MHz + something, nice reception, too, but that's all I can say about it, as I can't note details with dough sticking on my hands.

(David Crawford, FL) The following is an excerpt from a letter from the FCC with reference to the 5-digit Spanish number station often heard on 3060 and 3090 kHz:

"As a result of our routine monitoring of the radio spectrum, we have on previous occasion encountered the signals you describe. Through means of long range direction finding bearings we determined the signals were emanating from Cuba. Consequently, they were of no further interest to the agency."

A letter to the Central Intelligence Agency brought no reply.

OUR NATIONAL ANTHEMS (Chicago Tribune via AIDX via WDXC) The Russians have beaten the U.S. again by unilaterally disarming their national anthem. This leaves the U.S. in a dwindling minority of nations that sing, or try to sing, an anthem reeking of fighting and belligerence. The Soviets have been moved by internal politics to announce new words to their "Hymn of the Soviet Union" which has had to be hummed since Stalin was discredited in the 50s because the lines went "Stalin has raised us to trust in people / Inspiring us to labour and heroic deeds." This now goes as "And the great Lenin illuminated our path / He raised peoples to the just struggle / Inspiring us..." The last stanza now ends as "victory to the immortal ideals of communism" in place of "the heat of grim battle / swiftly striking the barbarian invaders."

"God Save the Queen" is classed as being among the more peaceable old style anthems as rarely do we use the second stanza (that's the bit where we 'scatter her enemies', if you've ever come across the words). Dozens of nations have adopted new anthems since World War II, usually after holding a national competition, with themes of freedom, equality, justice, unity and peace.

"Star Spangled Banner", which has only been the U.S. anthem since 1931, celebrates a minor battle in a minor war, and has confusing words set to an unmelodic old drinking song. The writer suggests the problem can't be solved by simply humming, as SSB is as unhummable as it is unsingable. Only one in five baseball fans knows the words to even the first stanza according to a poll. Even pros paid to sing the SSB at ball games sometimes have trouble remembering the words even to a 90-second version. The older an anthem the more likely the words are to emphasize blood and gore and ignore women. The U.S. needs an anthem it can be proud of, remember, support and sing, far better than the SSB. Anthem-wise, the U.S. is backward, underdeveloped and primitive. The call is out to produce a new anthem, or America the Beautiful.

The Truth About The Recent Gallup Survey

by
Reshet Blarney

With all the talk about recent Gallup surveys of shortwave listenership, but no Gallup surveys available to inspect, we decided to do some investigating. It turns out the survey mentioned by Dr. Richard E. Formica in the Communications Handiwork, and subsequently by Mustafa O'Radio in the Newyorkshire Times, was actually conducted by noted statistician Emil Ponderosa, bagpipe music editor for the Gallup Gazette of the town of the same name in New Mexico. This is, of course, the same Gallup Gazette that perished in a fire of suspicious origin set, according to the authoritative Short Wave News Syndicate of Canada, by CIA agents trying to destroy evidence concerning Radio Abdala's role in the Kennedy assassination.

Fortunately, Mr. Ponderosa had made a copy of the survey for his cousin, Gottleib Hansdaun, manager of a lively beer hall, the Austrian Putsch, located in the small village of Rockledge, Pennsylvania. While we could not get him to part with the prized document, a well-known female shortwave listener came to the rescue by disguising herself as Dolly Parton and lifting it from Gottleib's pocket during a sensuous polka.

This, then, is the true story of the Recent Gallup Survey.

During Mr. Ponderosa's visits to his brother in Rockledge, he was struck by the wholesomeness and simplicity of the local folk and decided they represented a typical cross-section of American society as a whole. Here, at last, the secrets of American shortwave listenership would be revealed.

The first step for Ponderosa was to inquire at the local Post Office as to how many Rockledgites subscribed to the magazine, "Review of International Broadcasting". The response: 3 -- Feber, McKnee, and Molly. From this he was able to calculate that 0.05% of Rockledge denizens subscribe to RIB.

Next, Ponderosa visited Oxide P. Ferrite, owner of Fergil Radio in Farkle Ridge, New Jersey to get an idea of how many shortwave hobbyists there are in the United States. Including "closet DXers" and radio club members, but excluding James Reston, a guestimate of 2,400 was arrived at--40 times the number of RIB subscribers. Thus, if 0.05% of the sample population were subscribing to RIB, 2% would be shortwave hobbyists of one kind or another.

Finally, intensive library research unearthed a study by one Professor Dan D. Smith and IRCA Caravan Surveys indicating that 1 person of every 100 who listens to shortwave is a hobbyist. After weeks of struggle, Ponderosa had found the answer -- 2% of 100, or 200% of all Americans listen to shortwave!

This seemed somewhat at odds with Mr. Ponderosa's personal experience, as heretofore he had rarely noticed more than 100% of Americans doing anything. Obviously, the others weren't Americans at all, but illegal aliens. Shocked by this finding, he gave the survey to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which classified it, ordered extra Texas Rangers to patrol the Rio Grande, and stepped up security at airports. It was at one of these airport checks that Dr. Formica, who was returning from a visit to his home town of Llewyyndcczradthnydchdwyn in Wales, was stopped by suspicious Agents. Furious at being treated as a common criminal, Dr. Formica demanded to speak to the Chief Agent, who apologized and related the story about the Recent Gallup Survey, shortwave listeners, and illegal aliens. Asked Formica, thinking of shortwave listeners, "How many are there?" Replied the Chief Agent, thinking of illegal aliens, "18 million," whereupon Dr. Formica rushed off to meet the deadline for the March issue of Popular Esperantists.

This, then, accounts for the figure of 18 million shortwave listeners being published. But as far as we know, the number is actually much higher, and proves conclusively that April 1 and the Great Pumpkin can be a year-round state of mind.

R.I.B. IS BIGGER odd-numbered months, more than twice as big, 36 pages, in case you received this issue as a sample and might misjudge it. The usual LIP plus many pages of comments on other topics relating to international broadcasting. As a rule, small issues are published after a 4-week interval; and large issues after a 5-week interval, averaging monthly. (gh)

Review of International Broadcasting

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PURPOSE OF RIB: To provide an open forum for the discussion of programming on shortwave, and secondarily on other media; and the discussion of other topics related to the DXing and SWLing hobbies.

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Cover by Mike Maghakian

TIME TO RENEW? If there is a 14 on your address label, this is the last issue of RIB on your present subscription. This is the only notice you will receive. Thanks for your cooperation, and I hope you will enjoy your next year with R I B! (gh)